An Accompt of a Book.

The Planters Manual: *Being* Inſtructions *for the* Raiſing, Planting *and* Cultivating *all ſorts of* Fruit-Trees; *whether* Stone-fruits, *or* Pepin-fruits, *with* their Natures *and* Seaſons; *very* uſeful *for ſuch as are* curious *in* Planting *and* Grafting. *By* Charles Cotton *Eſquire*, *in* 8o, *London*. 1675.

WE are *concerned* to take *ſpecial notice* of this Curious Treatiſe; it being publiſhed expreſly for the *publick* uſefulneſs, to advance the noble Work of raiſing the moſt delicious Orchard-fruit and Garden-fruit, which goes on ſo proſperouſly in *England*; ſo much for the honour of this Nation: The moſt lovely and moſt pleaſant part of Agriculture becoming the Inſpection of Gentlemen, and the moſt innocent Recreation of Princes and Nobles. We have, indeed, two excellent Tranſlations out of *French*, the *French Gardiner*, which hath much for Olitory Plants, and the Sieur *Le Gendre*, which is proper for Wall-fruit, both which I have formerly mentioned. Theſe two were the firſt and beſt experienced Maſters of noble Orchards and Gardens in *France*, and their elegant and accurate Tranſlations have done much good in *England*. And this our Judicious Author is, I think, the firſt that may juſtly be called an Engliſh Author of fruitful Gardens. For he accommodates all his *Inſtructions* to this *Climate* for the *faireſt Orchards of delicate fruit* (which is his proper Argument:) and *for the beſt ordering of ſuch tender fruit as require Walling*; and for the *choice and right ordering* of ſuch fruit, as *agrees beſt for Contreſpalliers*, or *Hedge-rows* over againſt the walled fruit, *That there may be pleaſant Walks or Alleys betwixt both thoſe rows*: And for *Dwarf trees* and *Shrubs*; of which he accounts for the *chief kinds*, giving us *very brief Catalogues* of the *very beſt ſorts* of *Cherries*, *Apricocks*, *Plums*, *Peaches*, *Pavyes*, *Apples*, and *Pears*: For which laſt he is largeſt in adviſing the choice for every Moneth, which to be eaten raw, and which to be baked.

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He directs the choice of ſoyl for Orchards of delicate fruit, the preparation of ſoyl, and Compoſt for all kinds: What ſorts are fitteſt to be mixed; what ſorts to be continued in rows, or in Orchards, of one only kind; at what diſtance each kind to be planted; what aſpect beſt; what winds moſt to be avoided; excellent curioſities for the moſt advantagious Tranſplantations; for Nurſeries; when and how to be graffed; and how all theſe to be cultivated at all ſeaſons: Remedies or Preventions againſt Inſects, and other hurtful Creatures, and ſundry accidents incident to theſe Plantations, and their fruit.

And it ſeems (as our Author notes to the Reader) his Inſtructions are confirmed by Experience in our Engliſh ſoyl. We had many noble and royal Gardens of the moſt delicat fruit before; but here, the Gardiners reſerved and beſt approv'd Arts are publiſh't for the more general ſatisfaction of thoſe generous Engliſh who are willing to beſtow the beſt Ornaments upon their native Countrey. And certainly if we were as induſtriouſly addicted to ſeek abroad for curious Gardiners, and skilful Vinedreſſers, where the beſt may be had, as we are for leſs profitable and commendable offices; we might hope, in a ſhort time, to be as famous for fair Gardens and rich Encloſures, as we are at this time for well-ſtored Parks, fair Manſions, and numbers of beautifull *Villa*'s, all over England. To this purpoſe our Author encourages us to take care and pains to raiſe for our ſelves, and on our own ground, the beſt Commodities, which our Neighbours can ſhew, as far as our Climate by Art and Induſtry may be enforced to bear them; and our ſelves decline thoſe effeminacies, and other vices, which we are apt enough to cenſure in others; and which in the opinion of the wiſer ſort of men (ſaith he) are not conſiſtent either with the conſtitution, or indeed with the honour of this Nation.

A Liſt